

From Photographer Makes Mormon Trail Record



Pictorial record of B. K. U. Pioneer Trails Art Tour completed by George Strebel with this dramatic "shot" of the group as it joined the Pioneer Day pageant at mouth of Emigration Canyon last July on Pioneers' Day.

A LARGE collection of photographs of the old Mormon

Trail, taken by George Strebel, Brigham Young University student, Provo, official photographer of the Pioneer Trails Art Tour of last summer, is being compiled by him.

It will be ready for binding this month. Two copies, one for the Church Historian's office and one for the Heber J. Grant Library at the university, are being prepared. Portraying the trail from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City, 421 pictures are being mounted in historical and chronological order. They have

been classified into two sections, one of snapshots and the other of formal photographs.

"It is an effort," said B. K. Larsen, professor of art at Brigham Young University, and head of the tour, "to make a real contribution to Church and western history and is the most complete group of pictures, as far as I know, of the trail. Many subjects and landmarks have never been photographed before and many are rapidly disappearing."

Typifying the value of the books there will be such pictures as a survey record of Nauvoo. There will be a picture of the secret door of the Nauvoo home of Joseph Smith through which he escaped when pursued by his persecutors. There will be a picture of the only fireplace and oven left, that were used by the Mormons in Nauvoo. In Florence, Neb., where the Mormons wintered and known in church history as Winter Quarters, Mr. Strebel was able to photograph the site of the first bark west of the Mississippi.

There will be such pictures as a photograph of the original pictorial quality is a picture of an old prairie schooner at Fort Caspar, Wyoming. The running gears of the wagon, which has wheels of solid wood, were discarded there by some Mormon pioneer family going west. How the family traveled from there is not known. The wagon in a repaired state is on display in reconstructed Fort Caspar.

The books will be an asset," said Mr. Strebel, "to the understanding of the old trail, showing more clearly the type of country the Mormons passed through and the conditions under which they struggled."

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P I O N E E R T R A I L

We glory in the story
 Of the path our fathers made
Across this land,
 As deeply in the earth they etched
With iron rimmed wheels
 And weary feet
A hallowed trail.

Oh, shall we let
 The silent sleepless years
With storm, with dust, with seed
 Wipe out all trace
Of freedom's pilgrimage?

Or shall we let
 The fruitful love we feel
Mark well for generations
 Yet unborn
Their epoch making trail?

Rachel G. Taylor.